

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 22, 2018  
3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Chairman Mortimer** called the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

**S 1279** **Relating to the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship; Amend, Provide, and Make Technical Corrections So Certain Funds May Be Used for Scholarship Awards to Adult Students Meeting Certain Criteria.** **Chairman Mortimer** indicated public testimony was heard and closed on February 21, 2018. He asked for a motion for **S 1279**.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **S 1279** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** said **S 1279** uses 20 percent funds allocated from the Opportunity Scholarship. Currently, many of the scholarship requests go unfunded. He stated scholarship priority should be given to students who have developed a educational plan.

**Senator Guthrie** stated the legislation should include qualifiers for those persons to receive scholarship money.

**Senator Den Hartog** said education is better served by setting policy and effecting tuition rates for students rather than providing the scholarships.

**Senator Nonini** stated his support of **S 1279**. Increasing scholarship funding helps people obtain a degree or certificate which moves them into better employment. This helps continue positive economic development.

**Senator Buckner-Webb** added she is in favor of anything that encourages education for everyone.

The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Den Hartog** voted **nay**.

**S 1211** **Relating to Education; Amend, Revise, and Make Technical Provisions Regarding the Professional Standards Commission; Provide for Adoption of a Code of Ethics and Rulemaking Authority.** **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), presented **S 1211**. She said the proposed legislation makes technical changes to update existing terms to distinguish clearly between codes of conduct and educator preparation standards. **Ms. Bent** detailed at length the changes being made to the nomination process for the Professional Standards Commission. The SBE will promulgate the rules to implement the provisions. **Ms. Bent** indicated stakeholders have expressed concerns regarding the nomination process. She asked to have the bill sent to the amending order.

**MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **S 1211** to the **14th Order**. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1705** **Incorporation by Reference: Science Standards.** **Chairman Mortimer** explained public testimony on this docket was given and closed on February 14, 2018.

**Dennis Stevenson**, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Office of Administrative Rules, Department of Administration discussed the process to be followed in addressing **Docket No. 08-0203-1705**. **Mr. Stevenson** stated a pending rule rejection requires a concurrent resolution by both bodies for it to become a law. He said either house can act unilaterally and if there is not a consensus, the rule will be adopted because there is no current resolution to reject the docket. **Mr. Stevenson** said if the Senate acts differently, the House has the option to adopt a concurrent resolution if they agree with the Senate's decision.

**Senator Nonini** asked if the Committee acted to excluded the science content, would that material be made available to the school districts through the State Department of Education (SDE). **Mr. Stevenson** replied that would be a possibility.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** **Chairman Mortimer** passed the gavel to **Vice Chairman Thayn**.

**MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to accept **Docket No. 08-0203-1705** except the supporting contents. **Chairman Mortimer** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Den Hartog** stated she does not believe the role of the Legislature and the State is to approve and put into rule supporting content for educational subjects. She said she believes the SDE should have the information and make it available to local districts to access it as needed.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to accept **Docket No. 08-0203-1705** in its entirety. The motion was seconded by **Senator Winder**.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** said it is important to recognize the content and standards have been written and well-vetted by elite science teachers in Idaho. Having the content information is valuable for new teachers.

**Senator Guthrie** asked if there was flexibility in teaching the science standards where a teacher could bring in examples or supporting information that are not in the standards. **Mr. Stevenson** said he did not know. He said administrative rule is the law.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** said as a teacher, she often introduced additional information to the class.

**Senator Winder** said there has been testimony stating these are the minimum standards that teachers must teach. He explained teachers have the latitude to add material as they teach.

**Chairman Mortimer** spoke in support of the original motion. He said it is clear there is a distinction between the performance standard and the supporting curriculum content. He stated the curriculum is the teacher's domain. He indicated the Legislature should approve the standards and let the supporting content be dictated by the teachers.

**Senator Crabtree** stated he was in favor of the original motion because of the process used to create that motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked for a roll call vote. **Senators Crabtree, Guthrie, Winder, Nonini, Buckner-Webb, and Ward Engelking** voted **aye**. **Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, and Senator Den Hartog** voted **nay**. The substitute motion passed.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Vice Chairman **Thayn** passed the gavel back to **Chairman Mortimer**.

**PRESENTATION:** **Chairman Mortimer** welcomed Dr. Cheryl Charlton, Superintendent of Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA). **Dr. Charlton** introduced Jacob Smith, Operations Director, IDLA, Jeff Simmons, Curriculum & Instruction Director, IDLA, and Dr. Sherawn Reberry, Education Programs Director, IDLA, and indicated they would help her with their presentation.

**Jacob Smith**, Operations Director, IDLA. addressed the efforts over the last 15 years to provide solutions for creating equity and access for all student providing high-quality courses and teachers available for all students in Idaho. He said to make the mission possible IDLA collaborate with national, state, and local partners, and receive support from partnerships and local districts. A partnership with the Division of Career Technical Education has resulted in five CTE digital courses added to the options. Equity and access can be obtained with flexibility and availability of courses to help bridge the gap between rural schools and larger districts (Attachment 1).

**Jeff Simmons**, Curriculum and Instruction Director, IDLA, discussed how IDLA helps provide solutions for local school district challenges. IDLA highly-skilled teachers help alleviate the teacher shortage by providing online courses to students whose schools can not offer the course. Some of the schools are providing proctors to support and motivate the students. He detailed at length the number of students enrolled in the variety of custom sections. **Mr. Simmons** said to provide more career and college information, students and parents can access a list of courses that would lead a student toward a specific program or degree.

**Dr. Sherawn Reberry**, Education Programs Director, IDLA, spoke about the advantages of taking dual credit classes. She detailed EdReady which is a tool to provide personalized learning how it aids students in their pursuit of higher education. **Dr. Reberry** said there are many resources available to Idaho teachers. She explained the Collaborative Counselor Training Initiative (CCI) which trains teachers through IDLA, who then are able to train others in their building or district. She said the IDLA is working with nine Idaho Mastery Education Network districts and have collaborative efforts with the SDE.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked if any of IDLA's funding was allocated from the Advanced Opportunities appropriation. **Dr. Charlton** replied 45 percent of the funding is from Advanced Opportunities. She said the remainder of the funding is based on student enrollment.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked if custom solutions is benefiting all schools and how many subjects are being made available. **Mr. Simmons** replied the rural school benefit the greatest, as they have a more difficult time obtaining qualified teachers. He stated whatever the district need has been, IDLA has been able to tailor the solution.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked if specific subjects are needed more than others. **Mr. Simmons** replied often it is the district that has the need. He said IDLA provides many science and math courses.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked what the flex model was; why students use it, and how many students participate in the program. **Mr. Simmons** replied the flex-model is a self-paced model which is used for a variety of student needs. He said there approximately 10 percent of IDLA students are enrolled in the program and students may enroll in it at any time.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked Dr. Charlton what IDLA would do with unrestricted funds. **Dr. Charlton** said IDLA would like to increase elementary education offerings and assist elementary teachers. There is a need to provide additional help for Spanish-speaking students.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary

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Sharon Pennington  
Assistant Secretary